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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK
PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO	ANDERSON BAHAMON	JEAN PAUL	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	MARRYBELL MADURO	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	RICKY THOMAS
SINGER	SINGER	SAXOPHONIST	VIOLINIST	SINGER	VIOLINIST	GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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Lawmakers voice support for congressional reviews of Trump's military strikes on boats

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., speaks with reporters about President Donald Trump's foreign policy intentions, with Venezuela in particular, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025. Associated Press.

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers from both parties said Sunday they support congressional reviews of U.S. military strikes against vessels suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean, citing a published report that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a verbal order for all crew members to be killed as part of a Sept. 2 attack.

The lawmakers said they did not know whether last week's Washington Post report was true, and some Republicans were skeptical, but they said attacking survivors of an initial missile strike poses serious legal concerns.

"This rises to the level of a war crime if it's true," said Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va.

Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, when asked about a follow-up strike aimed at people no long able to fight, said Congress does not have information that happened.

He noted that leaders of the Armed Services Committee in both the House and Senate have opened investigations.

"Obviously, if that occurred, that would be very serious and I agree that that would be an illegal act," Turner said. Turner said there are concerns in Congress about the attacks on vessels that the Trump administration says are transporting drugs, but the allegations regarding the Sept. 2 attack "is completely outside anything that has been discussed with Congress and there is an ongoing investigation."

The comments from lawmakers during news show appearance come as the administration escalates a campaign to combat drug trafficking into the U.S. On Saturday, Republican President Donald Trump said the airspace "above and surrounding" Venezuela should be considered as "closed in its entirety," an assertion that raised more questions about the U.S. pressure on Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro. Maduro's government accused Trump of making a "colonial threat" and seeking to undermine the South American country's sovereignty.

After the Post's report, Hegseth said Friday on X that "fake news is delivering more fabricated, inflammatory, and derogatory reporting to discredit our incredible warriors fighting to protect the homeland."

"Our current operations in the Caribbean are lawful under both U.S. and international law, with all actions in compliance with the law of armed conflict—and approved by the best military and civilian lawyers, up and down the chain of command," Hegseth wrote.

Republican Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and its top Democrat, Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, said in a joint statement late Friday that the committee "will be conducting vigorous oversight to determine the facts related to these circumstances."

That was followed Saturday with the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Republican Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama, and ranking Democratic member, Washington Rep. Adam Smith, issuing a joint statement saying the panel was committed to "providing rigorous oversight of the Department of Defense's military operations in the Caribbean."

"We take seriously the reports of follow-on strikes on boats alleged to be ferrying narcotics in the SOUTHCOM region and are taking bipartisan action to gather a full accounting of the operation in question," Rogers and Smith said, referring to U.S. Southern Command.

Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., asked about the Sept. 2 attack, said Hegseth deserves a chance to present his side. "We should get to the truth. I don't think he would be foolish enough to make this decision to say, kill everybody, kill the survivors because that's a clear violation of the law of war," Bacon said. "So, I'm very suspicious that he would've done something like that because it would go against common sense."

Kaine and Turner appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation," and Bacon was on ABC's "This Week."❑

Experts doubt the Pentagon can punish Kelly over the 'illegal orders' video

By BEN FINLEY and GARY FIELDS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's investigation of Sen. Mark Kelly over a video that urges American troops to defy "illegal orders" has raised a slew of questions, and some criticism, from legal experts.

Some say the Pentagon is misreading military law to go after Kelly as a retired Navy fighter pilot. Others say the Arizona Democrat cannot be prosecuted as a member of Congress. A group of former military prosecutors insists he did nothing wrong.

The Pentagon announced the investigation last week after President Donald Trump's social media post accusing Kelly — and the five other Democratic lawmakers in the video — of sedition "punishable by DEATH."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Kelly was facing investigation because he is the only one in that group who formally retired from the military and is still under the Pentagon's jurisdiction.

Kelly dismissed the inquiry as the work of "bullies" and said it would not deter him and other members of Congress "from doing our jobs and holding this administration accountable."

'It's not totally unheard of'

Stephen Vladeck, a Georgetown University law professor, said there has been a "significant uptick" in courts-martial of retired service members in the past decade. While courts have debated the constitutionality, the practice is currently allowed. He said there have been roughly a dozen such prosecutions across the service branches.

There are roughly 2 million people who formally retired from the military and receive retirement pay, according to a report from the Congressional Research Service. Service members are generally entitled to retirement pay after completing 20 years of active duty.

Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., speaks during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing, at the Capitol in Washington, Jan. 15, 2025.

Associated Press.

Todd Huntley, a retired Navy captain and judge advocate general, or JAG, said it is rare to prosecute retirees for something that happened after they retired.

"It's not totally unheard of," said Huntley, who now directs Georgetown's national security law program. "I actually prosecuted a enlisted guy who had been retired for 16 years. He was sexually assaulting his adopted daughter. Basically no one else had jurisdiction so we prosecuted him."

A 'ridiculous conclusion'

Colby Vokey, a prominent civilian military lawyer and former military prosecutor, said Hegseth appears to be misreading the Uniform Code of Military Justice to justify the Kelly investigation.

Vokey said Hegseth has personal jurisdiction over Kelly because Kelly is entitled to retirement pay. But Vokey said Hegseth lacks subject matter jurisdiction because Kelly made his statements as a senator.

Vokey said case law has evolved to where the military can prosecute an active-duty service member for a crime committed off base, such as robbing a convenience store. But applying military law to a retired service member and "assuming that means every offense ever is kind of a ridiculous conclusion."

"Let's say you have a 100-year-old World War II veteran who is retired with pay and he steals a candy bar," Vokey said. "Hegseth could bring him back and court-martial him. And that in effect is what is happening with Kelly."

Patrick McLain, a retired Marine Corps judge and former federal prosecutor, said the cases he has seen of retirees being called back "are more like extreme examples of fraud or some of these child pornography cases."

"I've not seen anything like the kind of the wackadoodle thing they're trying to do to Sen. Kelly for essentially exercising his First Amendment right to free speech, which they don't like," McLain said.

'He did it as a civilian'

Charles Dunlap, a Duke University law professor and retired Air Force lawyer, said in an email that military law can restrict speech for service members that is protected for civilians under the First Amendment.

But even if the video was found to have violated military law, a key issue may be whether the law can be applied to someone who is retired, Dunlap said.

A group of former military lawyers, the Former JAGs Working Group, said in a statement that Kelly did not violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"The video simply described the law as it pertains to lawful versus unlawful orders," the group said. "It did not suborn mutiny or otherwise encourage military members to disregard or disobey lawful orders issued to them."

Troops, especially uniformed commanders, have specific obligations to reject orders that are unlawful. Broad legal precedence also holds that just following orders — colloquially known as the "Nuremberg defense," as it was used unsuccessfully by senior Nazi officials to justify their actions under Adolf Hitler — does not absolve troops.

Kelly and the other lawmakers did not mention specific circumstances in the video. Some Democratic lawmakers have questioned the legality of the Trump administration's attempts to send National Guard troops into U.S. cities. Kelly has pointedly questioned the use of the military to attack alleged drug boats off South America's coast, saying he was worried about the military officers involved with the mission and whether they were following orders that may have been illegal.

Michael O'Hanlon, director of research in the foreign policy program at the Brookings Institution, said any case brought against Kelly likely would be thrown out or end in an acquittal.

O'Hanlon said it might not have been politically smart to "wave a red flag in front of the bull" but he does not see the legal grounds for a court martial.

"Saying that you shouldn't break the law cannot be a crime," O'Hanlon said. "But in addition, he did not do it as a military officer. He did it as a civilian."

Separation of powers

Kelly's status as a senator could block the Pentagon's investigation because of constitutional protections for the separation of powers in the U.S government.

The Constitution explicitly shields members of Congress from White House overreach, said Anthony Michael Kreis, a constitutional law professor at Georgia State University.

"Having a United States senator subject to discipline at the behest of the secretary of defense and the president — that violates a core principle of legislative independence," Kreis said in a telephone interview.

Kreis said such protections were a reaction to the British monarchy, which arbitrarily punished members of Parliament.

"Any way you cut it, the Constitution is fundamentally structurally designed to prevent this kind of abuse," Kreis said.❑

Thousands protest far-right surge in Croatia following incidents

Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Thousands of people on Sunday joined protest marches in Croatia against a surging far right following a spate of incidents that have fueled both ethnic and political tensions in the European Union country.

Gatherings dubbed "United against fascism" were organized in four major cities, including the capital, Zagreb. The crowd chanted "we are all antifascists!" as they pledged to counter what they described as a bid by right-wing groups to spread fear and silence opponents.

Protesters demanded also that the authorities curb hard right groups and their frequent use of pro-fascist symbols relating to Croatia's World War II pro-Nazi puppet state, which ran concentration camps where tens of thousands of ethnic Serbs, Jews, Roma and antifascist Croats were executed.

A protest declaration stated that "we will not agree to treating national minorities as a provocation and to an idea of patriotism that draws its symbols from the darkest episode of our history."

"All that has been happening around us is very dangerous," journalist Maja Sever told participants at the Zagreb rally. "You have shown you will not be quiet but that we will fight for a democratic society."

Protesters hold placards during a protest march against the surging far right following a spate of incidents targeting ethnic minorities and liberals, in Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025.

Associated Press.

Groups of young men wearing black clothes showed up in counter-gatherings in the northwestern port city of Rijeka and the central coastal town of Zadar, where they shouted insults and threw firecrackers and red paint at the protesters, according to the HRT public broadcaster.

Extremist incidents in November targeted ethnic Serb cultural events in the capital Zagreb and in the coastal city of Split, sparking fears of ethnic violence decades after a Serb-Croat war in 1991-95.

Extremists also have turned against liberal groups or politicians, as well as foreign workers in Croatia. They often use the "For the homeland — Ready!" salute of the Nazi-era puppet Ustasha regime that ran Croatia during World War II.

"We have groups throwing smoke bombs and firecrackers and threatening violence, raising their right hand in the air and shouting 'For the homeland — Ready,'" Iva Davorija, an organizer of the march in Zadar, told HRT public broadcaster. "They are doing this freely."

Croatia's tilt to the right first started after the governing conservatives of Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic formed a coalition with a far-right party after last year's parliamentary election, leaving an ethnic Serb party outside the government for the first time in years.

The trend, however, culminated with a mass concert in July of a right-wing singer whose use of the World War II slogan in one of his most popular songs has been a source of controversy and divisions for years. Singer Marko Perkovic — whose stage name is Thompson after a U.S.-made machine gun — has been banned from some European cities but remains hugely popular in Croatia.

Prime Minister Plenkovic has denied turning a blind eye to spikes in far-right extremism and neo-fascist hate speech.

He, in turn, has accused his leftist opponents of blowing the problem out of proportion and thus deepening the divisions.

Croatia was part of the Communist-run Yugoslavia after World War II. But the federation broke up in a series of nationalist wars in the 1990s. In Croatia, minority Serbs rebelled against the split and took control over swaths of Croatia's territory with an aim to join Serbia. More than 10,000 people died in the conflict.

Croatia joined the EU in 2013 after becoming a member of NATO four years earlier.❑

Swiss voters reject mandatory national service for women and new inheritance tax

A person walks past referendum posters of political parties and associations as Swiss voters are casting ballots to decide whether women, like men, must do national service in the military, civil protection teams or in other forms, in Geneva, Switzerland, on Nov. 26, 2025.

Associated Press.

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss voters on Sunday decisively rejected a call to require women to do national service in the military, civil protection teams or other forms, as men must do already.

In a referendum, over 84% of voters rejected the "citizen service initiative" and none of the country's 26 cantons, or states, came anywhere near voting in favor. Proposals need a majority of both voters and cantons to pass.

A separate proposal to impose a new national tax on individual donations or inheritances of more than 50 million francs ($62 million) was shot down by more than 78% of voters. The revenues were to be used to fight the impact of climate change and help Switzerland meet its ambitions to have net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Supporters of the national service plan hoped that it would boost social cohesion by adding jobs in areas like environmental prevention, food security and elderly care. But lawmakers opposed it, mainly for cost reasons and out of concern that it could hurt the economy by taking many young people out of the workforce.

The proposal came at a time when other European countries are finding ways to bolster their armed forces in the face of growing concerns about Russia's potential threat beyond the war in Ukraine.

Young men in neutral Switzerland are already required to carry out military service or join civil protection teams. Conscientious objectors can do other types of service, and those who opt out entirely must pay an exemption fee. Each year, about 35,000 men take part in mandatory service.

The failed initiative would have required all Swiss citizens to do national service — women can currently do so on a voluntary basis — and applied the concept of national security to areas beyond military service or civil protection.

Its supporters pointed to "landslides in the mountains, floods in the plains, cyberattacks, risks of energy shortages or war in Europe" and said that their plan would mean everyone taking responsibility for "a stronger Switzerland that's able to stand up to crises."❑

Death toll in Hong Kong apartment complex blaze rises to 146 as the city mourns

By David Rising
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The death toll in Hong Kong's apartment complex blaze rose to 146 on Sunday as investigators discovered more bodies in the burned-out buildings. A steady stream of people placed bouquets of flowers at an ever-growing makeshift memorial at the scene of the disaster, among the worst in the city's history.

The Hong Kong police Disaster Victim Identification Unit has been going through the buildings of the Wang Fuk Court complex meticulously and has found bodies both in apartment units and on the roofs, said the officer in charge, Cheng Ka-chun.

The buildings remain structurally sound, but the search has been slow, he told reporters, still wearing his white coveralls with his hard hat and respiratory mask at his side. "It is so dark inside, and because of the low light, it is very difficult to do the work, especially in places away from the windows."

So far the team has examined four of the seven blocks, Cheng said.

The latest searches turned up another 30 bodies, including 12 that had already been discovered by firefighters but hadn't been recovered, said Tsang Shuk-yin, the head of the Hong Kong police casualty unit.

A further 100 people are unaccounted for and 79 have been injured, Tsang said.

At the scene, well-wishers bowed and said short prayers, or left handwritten notes among the flowers.

"This really serves as a wake-up call for everyone, especially with these super high-rise buildings," said Lian Shuzheng, who waited in a line of hundreds of people to add her flowers to the growing cluster.

People have also donated supplies to those who lost everything in the blaze, which started Wednesday and took until Friday to fully extinguish.

The eight buildings of the Wang Fuk Court complex in the suburb of Tai Po had all been clad in bamboo scaffolding draped with nylon netting for renovations, with windows covered by polystyrene panels. Authorities were investigating whether fire codes were violated.

Other constructions by the same builder are halted

Hong Kong officials announced late Saturday they had ordered the immediate suspension of work on 28 building projects undertaken by the same contractor, the Prestige Construction & Engineering Company, for safety audits.

"The five alarm fire at Wang Fuk Court, Tai Po, exposed serious deficiencies of PC&E in site safety management, including the extensive use of foam boards to block up windows during building repairs," the government said in a statement.

The company did not answer calls for comment Sunday.

Three men — the directors and an engineering consultant of a construction company — were arrested the day after the fire broke out on suspicion of manslaughter, and police said company leaders were suspected of gross negligence. Police did not identify the firm by name.

Those three were released on bail but then rearrested by Hong Kong's anti-corruption authorities, who have also arrested a further eight suspects including scaffolding subcontractors, directors of an engineering consulting company and the renovation project managers.

In recent days, multiple petitions have been started online calling for a proper investigation of what went wrong at the apartment complex. But China's national security authority also issued a warning Saturday, saying it would support Hong Kong in "taking a hard stance" against any "disruptive" actions linked to the disaster.

"We warn those anti-China elements ... no matter what methods they use, they'll be held accountable by the Hong Kong National Security Law and National Security Ordinance."

Faulty fire alarms and foam panels under investigation

The apartment complex of eight, 31-story buildings in Tai Po, a suburb near Hong Kong's border with mainland China, was built in the 1980s. It had almost 2,000 apartments and more than 4,600 residents.

Many are now housed in short-term emergency shelters or city hotels, and authorities are working on longer-term solutions.

"It's heartbreaking," said Jeffery Chan, a civil servant who came to pay his respects on Sunday.

"As a Hong Konger, seeing people in the place where we live lose their families, lose everything in just one night — if you put yourself in their shoes, it is unbearable. They need encouragement, support and help from the people of Hong Kong," he said.

Preliminary investigations showed the fire started Wednesday afternoon on a lower-level scaffolding net of one of the buildings, and then spread rapidly inside as the foam panels caught fire and blew out windows, according to Chris Tang, Hong Kong's secretary for security. Winds helped the flames jump from building to building and soon seven of the eight were engulfed.

First responders found that some fire alarms in the complex, which housed many older people, did not sound when tested, according to Andy Yeung, the director of Hong Kong Fire Services.

The dead included seven Indonesian migrant workers, and several dozen are still unaccounted for, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said. One Filipina domestic helper was also killed and 12 others remain unaccounted for, according to the Philippines Consulate General in Hong Kong.

On Sunday afternoon, several hundred Filipinos packed a pedestrian street in central Hong Kong, saying prayers and singing hymns in tribute to the fire victims.❑

Police remove what appears to be a body bag from the site of a deadly Wednesday fire at Wang Fuk Court, a residential estate in the Tai Po district of Hong Kong's New Territories on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025.

(AP Photo/Chan Long Hei)

Hondurans vote to elect new president in a close race under shadow of Trump's surprise intervention

By Christopher Sherman
Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Hondurans began casting ballots Sunday to elect a new president only days after U.S. President Donald Trump intervened in a close race with an endorsement of one candidate and announced that he would pardon a former president. At a voting site in the capital, the country's major parties were present with tables, banners, flags and music, but media far outnumbered potential voters initially.

In addition to a new president, voters will elect a new Congress, as well as hundreds of local positions.

Among the five presidential candidates on the ballot, polls indicated three had a chance to win and were finishing in close competition. They are:

1. Rixi Moncada, 60, who served as finance and later as defense secretary in the current administration of President Xiomara Castro before leaving to run for president for the social democrat LIBRE or Liberty and Re-foundation party.

2. Salvador Nasralla, who is making his fourth bid for the presidency, this time as the candidate for the conservative Liberal Party.

3. Former Tegucigalpa Mayor Nasry "Tito" Asfura, who carries the mantle of the also conservative National Party.

Ruling party presidential candidate Rixi Moncada speaks during a press conference in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, a day ahead of the country's general election.
(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

Castro promises to "democratize" an economy still defined by extreme wealth and poverty. Nasralla casts himself as the outsider who can clean up the country's endemic corruption. And Asfura is trying to restore the National Party as a probusiness force tarnished by previous bouts of presidential corruption.

Honduras' security situation has improved in recent years as homicides across the region continue to fall, but it still has Central America's highest homicide rate. Hondurans say security and jobs remain their top priorities, despite an economy that has strengthened during Castro's administration.

The presidential contest had mostly focused on candidates trading accusations of plans to manipulate the vote until this past week when Trump endorsed Asfura while attacking his opponents, the latest signal of the United States' renewed interest in Latin America.

Then Trump shocked Hondurans by announcing Friday that he would pardon ex-President Juan Orlando Hernández, who was serving a 45-year sentence in a U.S. prison for helping drug traffickers moving cocaine to the United States.

It was unclear what impact Trump would have on the election, but it was the latest show of the U.S. government's willingness to directly involve itself in the region and came at a time of already heightened tensions because of the U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean and Trump's threats against Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro.

Hondurans were left unnerved by the sudden U.S. attention, and hoping at a minimum for a peaceful election.

Walking by a polling site in the capital, Ruben Darío Molina, a 55-year-old security guard, said that he wouldn't vote Sunday because he had to work. But he had choice words for Trump, whose administration deported him back to his native Honduras a month ago after 20 years living in the United States.

He had worked in landscaping in Miami, but was picked up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, one day in the street, separating him from his U.S. citizen wife and son. ❑

Netanyahu submits request for a pardon during his ongoing corruption trial

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses lawmakers in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, Monday, Nov. 10 2025.

(AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg)

By Sam Mednick
Associated Press

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday asked the country's president to grant him a pardon from corruption charges — seeking to end a long-running trial that has bitterly divided the nation.Netanyahu, who has been at war against the country's legal system over the charges, said the request would help unify the country at a time of momentous changes in the region. But it immediately triggered denunciations from his opponents, who said it would weaken Israel's democratic institutions and send a dangerous message that he is above the rule of law.

In a statement Sunday the prime minister's office said that Netanyahu had submitted a request for a pardon to the legal department of the Office of the President. The president's office called it an "extraordinary request," carrying with it "significant implications."

Netanyahu is the only sitting prime minister in Israeli history to stand trial, after being charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases accusing him of exchanging favors with wealthy political supporters. He has not been convicted of anything.

Netanyahu rejects the allegations and has condemned the case as a witch hunt orchestrated by the media, police and judiciary. The request comes weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump urged Israel to pardon Netanyahu. Earlier this month Trump also sent a letter to President Isaac Herzog calling the corruption case "political, unjustified prosecution."

In a videotaped statement, Netanyahu said the trial has divided the country and that a pardon would help restore national unity. He also said the requirement that he appear in court three times a week is a distraction that makes it difficult for him to lead the country.

"The continuation of the trial tears us apart from within, stirs up this division, and deepens rifts. I am sure, like many others in the nation, that an immediate conclusion of the trial would greatly help to lower the flames and promote the broad reconciliation that our country so desperately needs," he said.❑

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algamesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past.❑

Aruba to me: The Murphys

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Patrick and Denise Murphy of Allison Park, PA.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is ten fantastic days with my wife and the wonderful people of Aruba."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!❑

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)— The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. Made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box."

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

A guide for the perfect picture:

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're out and about on the island and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Aruba is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Aruba.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in Mainstreet Oranjestad, check out the wooden swing on Plaza Daniel Leo. This is another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram.

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be careful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is sure to pop!

Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!❑

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls
The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse
No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves
Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else.❑

Dining in? Try making some local favorites!
How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

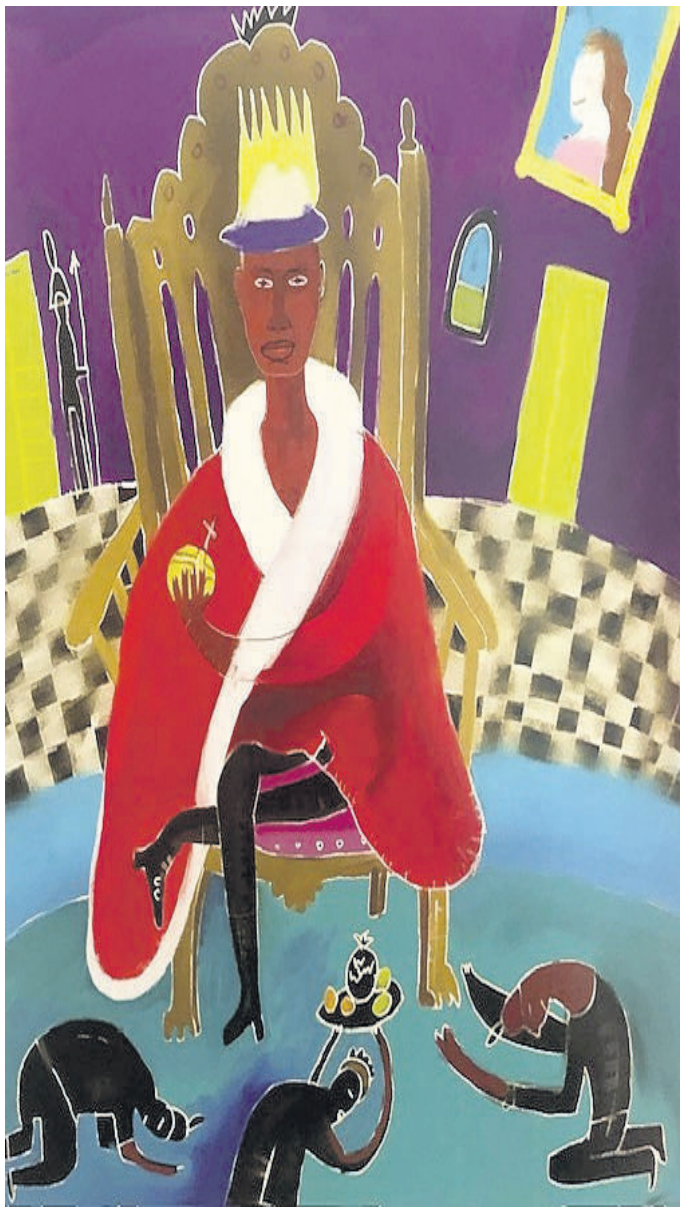
Ingredients:
2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:
Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moister is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top!❑

The stories of "Compa Nanzi"



(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

"Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

"Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word.

"Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!"

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.❑

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is 'placa'. Cents are called 'cen' (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Tortuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (forkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

The word "florin" is supposedly named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.❑

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

ARUBA TODAY

CROSSWORD

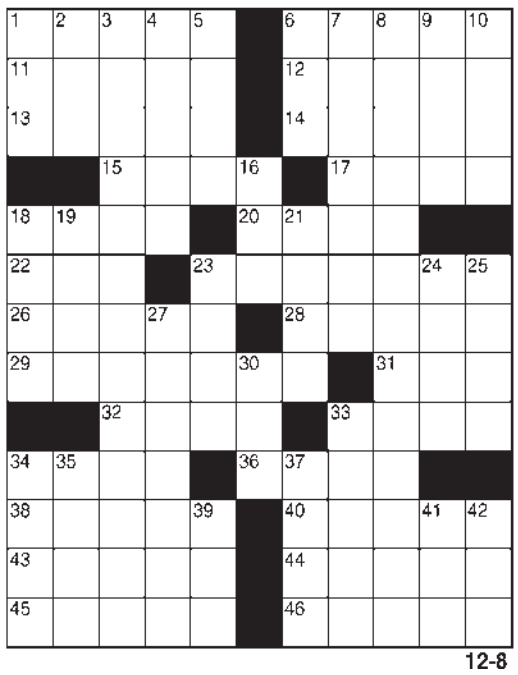
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Influence
6 Social blunder
11 Directional sign
12 Benefit
13 Measure
14 Buffalo team
15 Comfort
17 On the ocean
18 Track figures
20 Locale
22 Garden visitor
23 Squid's cousin
26 Like bar beer
28 Hag
29 Mascara holder
31 Haul into court
32 City of Colombia
33 Loses light
34 Tender touches
36 Novel need
38 Similar
40 Oneness
43 Exploding stars
44 Studio work
45 Prom crowd
46 Hog the mirror

DOWN

1 Comic bit
2 Historic time
3 HBO crime anthology
4 Forum garments
5 Has debts
6 Yak it up
7 Ace, e.g.
8 Result of a faulty test
9 Dossier
10 "Frozen" queen
16 PC key
18 Bassoon's kin
19 Turn down
21 Longing
23 Milky gem
24 Coin word
25 Beholds
27 Nome native
30 Tentative taste
33 Campaign supporter
34 Gasp for air
35 Lotion additive
37 Oatmeal feature
39 Twisty shape
41 Bind
42 Longing



12-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

NSGP XTS UZZMO XTSC PZF'X AGFX CZQ XZ. XTGX'O ATSNS XTS IZZP OXQLL HO.

— ESYGN UQNXZF

Cryptoquote: A LITTLE MORE FUN, A LITTLE MORE LOVE, A LITTLE MORE LIGHT EVERY NIGHT. THAT'S THE JOY OF HANUKKAH. — UNKNOWN

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 01 - 07 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	01	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
TUE	02	ROTTERDAM	07.00	****	B	1
		AIDAMAR	08.00	18.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	03	*ROTTERDAM - Dept.*	****	17.00	B	
		BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	04	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	C	1
		SEABOURN OVATION	09.00	22.00	I	1
		SILVER SHADOW	08.00	18.00	H	1
FRI	05	CARNIVAL LIBERTY	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	06	KONINGSDAM	07.00	16.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		STAR CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	G	1
SUN	07	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		6	5	7	9	3	1	
	4				3			5
	3			4	1	8		6
	1				5	2	4	
2			3	1				8
3	5			2		1		9
9			7	5				1
	7		4				6	
4	6			9			8	7

Difficulty: ★ 12/1

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Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	6	2	5	9	7	1	8
2	1	9	4	8	7	6	3	5
7	5	8	6	1	3	4	2	9
8	6	4	9	2	5	1	7	3
3	9	1	7	6	4	8	5	2
5	7	2	8	3	1	9	4	6
9	2	7	3	4	6	5	8	1
1	4	3	5	9	8	2	6	7
6	8	5	1	7	2	3	9	4

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 11/30

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An archaeologist is racing to preserve Sudan's heritage as war threatens to erase its cultural past

Archaeologist from Sudan's National Museum Dr Shadia Abdrabo, poses at her office at the French National Institute for Art History (INHA) in Paris, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025.
(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

By Louise Dewast
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — In a dimly lit office in a corner of the French National Institute for Art History, Sudanese archaeologist Shadia Abdrabo studies a photograph of pottery made in her country around 7,000 B.C. She carefully types a description of the Neolithic artifact into a spreadsheet.

As the war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) rages on, the curator from Sudan's National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) is on a yearlong research grant in France with one mission: to build an online database of the African nation's archaeological sites, museum collections and historical archives.

Soon after the war in Sudan started, in April 2023, museums were looted and destroyed. It's unclear what exactly went missing, but Abdrabo says her task is to find out — and time is of the essence.

"We have to work fast to secure our collections. We've already lost two museums and we don't want to lose more," Abdrabo told The Associated Press.

She says two regional museums in El Geneina and Nyala were almost completely destroyed, while in Khartoum, the National Museum — which held an estimated 100,000 objects before the war — was ransacked by militias who posted videos online of their fighters inside the storeroom.

The National Museum had pieces dating back to prehistoric times, including from the Kerma Kingdom and the Napatan era when Kushite kings ruled the region as well as from the Meroitic civilization that built Sudan's pyramids. Other galleries displayed later Christian and Islamic objects.

Among its most valuable items were mummies dating back to 2,500 B.C., some of the oldest and most archaeologically significant in the world as well as royal Kushite treasures.

'Entire archives vanished'

UNESCO raised the alarm on reports of plundering saying the "threat to culture appears to have reached an unprecedented level."

"My heart was broken, you know? It's not just objects that we lost. We lost research, we lost studies, we lost many things," Abdrabo said.

Last month, hundreds of people were left dead and more than 80,000 others forced into displacement after the capture of North Darfur's capital, El Fasher, by the RSF. For Abdrabo the work is deeply personal.

"I'm from Nubia, from the north, an area filled with monuments, archaeological sites and ancient life," she said. The region was home to some of the world's earliest kingdoms that rivaled ancient Egypt in power and wealth.

She was working at the national museum in the capital Khartoum when the war started.

"We thought it would finish soon … but then life started getting really difficult: not just the bombing, but there was no electricity, no water," she said. With her three sisters, she fled north — first to Atbara, then to Abri, and eventually to Port Sudan.

But efforts to protect Sudan's art were too slow, said Ali Nour, a Sudanese cultural heritage advocate.

"While applications were being drafted, sites were being emptied. While risk assessments were reviewed, entire archives vanished," Nour wrote in an article for the U.K.-based International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

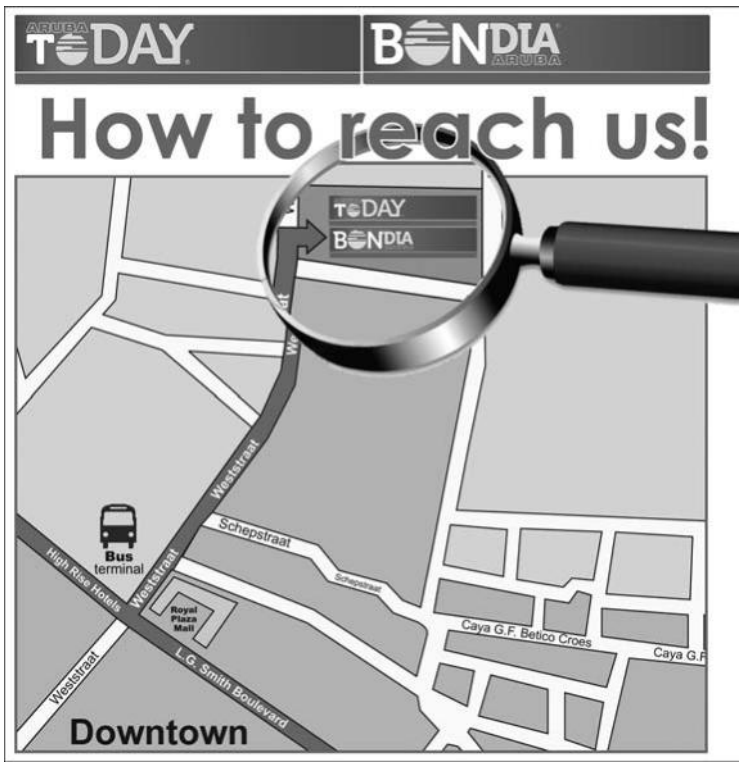
Urgent recovery efforts

UNESCO said it carried out inventories, trained police and customs officers to recognize stolen antiquities, while appealing to collectors "to refrain from acquiring or taking part in the import, export or transfer of ownership of cultural property from Sudan."

But, unlike similar cultural emergencies that followed wars in Afghanistan and Iraq,

"Sudan has not benefited from strong media coverage denouncing the degradation and plundering of its cultural heritage," according to researcher Meryam Amarir. ''This lack of visibility has reduced the international response."

Ancient Sudan was connected, through trade and military activity, with Egypt, the Mediterranean world and Mesopotamia, and was the source of much of the gold available in the region, according to Geoff Emberling of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan.❑



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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Eagle: Tel.587 9011
San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

ARUBA TODAY

Bill Belichick's 1st season at North Carolina ends in a rivalry loss at NC State -- and just 4 wins

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Bill Belichick stood at the microphone in a crowded room of reporters. North Carolina's season had just ended with a lopsided loss to a fierce nearby rival to cap a four-win season.

And the six-time Super Bowl-winning head coach wasn't in much of a mood to talk about it.

A little more than four minutes' worth, in fact.

"Look, the season's just ended a few minutes ago, OK?" Belichick said after the 42-19 loss at N.C. State on Saturday night. "So now we're going to move into the offseason. That's what we're going to do."

UNC started the year with buzz and a national spotlight, teeming with optimism — or maybe merely hope — that the NFL icon could elevate the program into something more as a first-time college coach. By season's end, Belichick had fielded a team that had more losses by double-digit margins (five) than total wins while offering frequent helpings of unwanted off-field headlines.

The final blow came in Raleigh, where the Wolfpack and coach Dave Doeren were all too eager to stick it to the Tar Heels for a fifth straight year in front of a typically rowdy home crowd. And this one sent the 73-year-old Belichick into the offseason with a final thud, armed with none of the silver-lining assessments that had followed modest gains shown in close losses or wins against some of the ACC's worst teams.

He offered few insights, too, down to what message he gave his first college team after a season of expectations ended in ugly fashion.

"I'll keep my message to the team between me and the team," Belichick said.

North Carolina head coach Bill Belichick protests a call during the second half of an NCAA college football game against North Carolina State in Raleigh, N.C., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025.
(AP Photo/Karl DeBlaker)

On-field struggles

The Tar Heels (4-8, 2-6) closed the season with three straight losses to in-state league opponents, first at Wake Forest on Nov. 15 and then at home against Duke last weekend. That capped a season that saw the Tar Heels lose five games by 16 or more points, starting with a 48-14 loss to TCU on Labor Day — which had drawn ESPN's "College Gameday" to Chapel Hill and countless headlines about Belichick's arrival at the college level.

That turned into merely the start of trouble, with the opening month including blowout losses at UCF and at home to a Clemson team that will finish with that program's lowest win output in 15 years. UNC's three wins were against Bowl Subdivision programs with a combined 8-28 record (Charlotte, Syracuse and Stanford).

That's hardly in line with the expectations that followed the school hiring Belichick to a deal that included each of the first three seasons with a guaranteed $10 million in base and supplemental play, along with elevated investments in the program for staff and elsewhere. That notably included general manager Michael Lombardi saying the Tar Heels "consider ourselves the 33rd (NFL) team" in their pro-heavy influence and approach.

By the end?

"It's hard to put in one word," receiver Jordan Shipp said when asked how he would describe the season. "We didn't expect the season to go like this of course."

Off-field hiccups

The headlines weren't confined solely to gamedays.

There was Belichick banning scouts from the New England Patriots — the team he led to those six Super Bowls with Tom Brady — as part of his own acrimonious relationship with his former franchise.

There was the suspension of an assistant coach tied to NCAA rule violations.

The school r eleasing terse statements from Belichick and athletic director Bubba Cunningham reaffirming the marriage between Belichick and UNC, itself a sign of how bumpy the first few weeks of Belichick's tenure had gone.

There were midseason reports by WRAL TV of Raleigh painting an image of turmoil behind the scenes as well as multiple players being cited for speeding or reckless driving. And there was the tabloid-level interest in Belichick's relationship with 24-year-old girlfriend Jordon Hudson, a frequent sideline presence before games.

It all generated plenty of fodder for opponents to jab at the man many consider to be the greatest NFL coach of all time, one who holds 333 regular-season and playoff wins to trail only Don Shula (347) for the NFL record. And it frequently had Belichick fielding news-conference questions that veered away from the sport he knows so well.

Saturday's loss

Doeren knows Belichick's history well. But he also understands the UNC-N.C. State rivalry between schools sharing the 919 area code and separated by roughly a 30-minute drive along Interstate 40.

It showed in the way his team jumped all over the Tar Heels, scoring touchdowns on all four first-half drives to lead 28-10 by the break.

Doeren, for the record, has now beaten UNC for five straight years and is 9-4 against the Tar Heels in Raleigh. He's now 1-0 against Belichick, who was zipped up in a puffy navy blue winter coat bearing a light-blue interlocking-NC logo on this 34-degree night.

Belichick gave Doeren a quick midfield handshake afterward, offering no chance for chit-chat.

"It's definitely something that motivated me," Doeren said of the matchup. "I have a lot of respect for Bill. I mean, how do you not? He's one of the greatest NFL coaches of all time. ... There was pep in my step this week for sure. I wanted that win, the competitive part of me against him. It's very meaningful."

Players take lead

Once Belichick met with reporters, he deflected any big-picture questions about the season overall.

"We've been working on a team every week," Belichick said. "I'm sorry I don't have a season recap for you. I don't have one, we haven't done it."

Rather, that left Shipp and linebacker Khmori House to take the lead in answering for what went wrong and what's next.

"We showed glimpses, we just didn't do enough to pull off some wins," Shipp said, adding: "We know internally that we're not as bad as our record shows."

Both fielded questions from reporters longer than Belichick, with Shipp talking nearly twice as long (7 1/2 minutes). That included House being asked how he would describe this most unusual of seasons.

"I would describe it as a roller-coaster, ups and downs," he said, "but a lesson."❑

No backup plan for Milan Olympic ice hockey arena as construction goes down to the wire

An outside view of the Santa Giulia Ice Hockey Arena, in Milan, where Ice Hockey discipline of the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics will take place Italy, Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.
(AP Photo/Luca Bruno, File)

An outside view of the Santa Giulia Ice Hockey Arena, in Milan, where Ice Hockey discipline of the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics will take place Italy, Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.
(AP Photo/Luca Bruno, File)

By Daniella Matar
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — There is no backup stadium if the main ice hockey arena for the Milan Cortina Winter Games is not ready on time.

Construction on the arena that is set to welcome NHL players back to the Olympics for the first time in more than a decade is behind schedule and its completion is going right down to the wire.

A test event at the Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena — the new, 16,000-seat venue on the outskirts of Milan — had to be moved, and new test events aren't scheduled until Jan. 9-11.

"There is no plan B," Andrea Francisi, the chief games operations officer for Milan Cortina, told the Associated Press on Saturday.

"So necessarily we have to be able to organize the competition in an impeccable manner at Santagiulia."

The first scheduled Olympic hockey game at the arena is a women's preliminary round match on Feb. 5, one day before the opening ceremony.

Usually, new Olympic venues are tested at least the year before hosting medal events. And with a large hockey arena it's not just about the ice and making sure the playing surface is ready and safe. It's also about testing concession stands, bathrooms and everything else inside a brand new arena.

Francisi admitted there is "no precise date" for the venue to be handed over to local organizers, but he is confident "for the moment" that it will be ready for the Olympics.

"There are daily updates in the sense that our team is there working every day," Francisi said. "The companies which are involved with the building of the facility have sped up their work significantly.

"We're monitoring all that daily together with them, there's great collaboration between us, we're creating a coordinated plan between their work and our preparations and for the moment we're healthily optimistic, but 100% we'll do it."

The men's Olympic hockey tournament is scheduled from Feb. 11-22. The women's tournament runs from Feb. 5-19.❑

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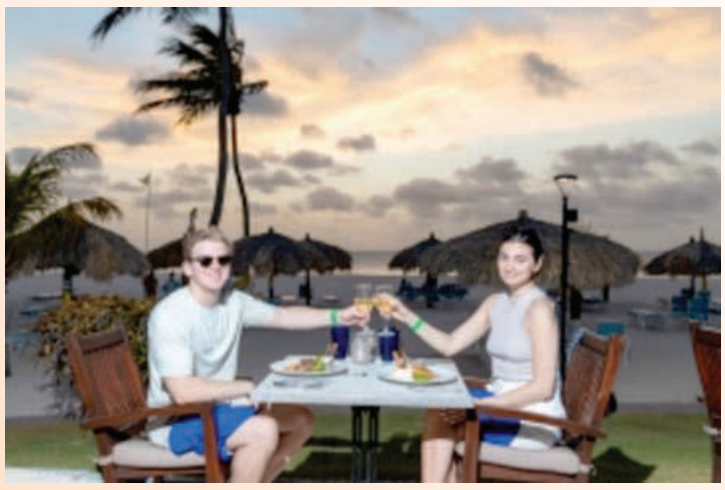

(Eagle Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open
daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com ❑